

**What Is Claimed Is:**

1        1.    An image forming method for forming an image  
2        on a printable object on the basis of image data  
3        obtained by editing images of a plurality of  
4        originals, the method comprising the steps of:

5                determining an image composited area of a  
6        first original by indicating coordinates of the  
7        image composited area;

8                extracting an image extracted area of a second  
9        original to produce image data pertaining to the  
10       image extracted area by indicating coordinates of  
11       the image extracted area;

12               editing the image data so as to composite the  
13       image extracted area of the second original into  
14       the image composited area of the first original in  
15       order to obtain post-editing image data for  
16       representing a composite image based on the first  
17       and second originals; and

18               forming the composite image on a printable  
19       object in accordance with the post-editing image  
20       data.

1        2.    The image forming method of claim 1, further  
2        comprising a step of designating an editorial  
3        process in which the image extracted area of the  
4        second original is edited relative to the image  
5        composited area of the first original, wherein the

6 editing step is performed in accordance with the  
7 editorial process.

1 3. The image forming method of claim 1, wherein,  
2 in a case where a portion or a whole of an image of  
3 the second original is extracted, and is composited  
4 into the first original, a size of an image  
5 composited area of the first original is compared  
6 in the editing step with a size of an image  
7 extracted area of the second original, thereby  
8 effecting a scaling process so as to fit an image  
9 located in the image extracted area to the image  
10 composited area.

11 4. The image forming method of claim 3, wherein  
12 the image extracted area of the second original is  
13 read in accordance with a scaling factor obtained  
14 as a result of the scaling process.

1 5. The image forming method of claim 1, further  
2 comprising a step of storing a portion or a whole  
3 of image data pertaining to the respective first  
4 and second originals, wherein a storage image  
5 obtained in the storing step is read in the editing  
6 step in order to composite a read image into the  
7 image composited area of the first original.

1 6. The image forming method of claim 3, further  
2 comprising a step of storing a portion or a whole  
3 of image data pertaining to the respective first  
4 and second originals, wherein a storage image  
5 obtained in the storing step is read in the editing  
6 step in order to composite a read image into the  
7 image composited area of the first original.

1 7. The image forming method of claim 4, further  
2 comprising a step of storing a portion or a whole  
3 of image data pertaining to the respective first  
4 and second originals, wherein a storage image  
5 obtained in the storing step is read in the editing  
6 step in order to composite a read image into the  
7 image composited area of the first original.

1 8. The image forming method of claim 1, further  
2 comprising a step of storing a portion or a whole  
3 of image data pertaining to the respective first  
4 and second originals,

5 wherein, in a case where a storage image of  
6 the second original obtained in the storing step is  
7 composited into the first original, a size of an  
8 image composited area of the first original is  
9 compared in the editing step with a size of an  
10 image extracted area from which the storage image  
11 has been extracted, thereby effecting a scaling

process so as to fit an extracted storage image to the image composited area.

9. An image forming system, comprising:

a coordinate input device which is capable of indicating an image composited area of a first original and an image extracted area of a second original;

a command input device which is capable of designating an editorial process in which the image extracted area of the second original is edited relative to the image composited area of the first original;

a scanner section which reads image data on the first and second originals;

an editing device which edits image data pertaining to the image extracted area of the second original so as to composite the image extracted area of the second original into the image composited area of the first original, in accordance with the editorial process designated by the command input device, in order to obtain post-editing image data for representing a composite image based on the first and second originals; and

a print device which forms the composite image on a printable object in accordance with the post-editing image data.

1 10. The image forming system of claim 9, wherein,  
2 in a case where a portion or a whole of the second  
3 original is extracted, and is composited into the  
4 first original, the editing device compares a size  
5 of an image composited area of the first original  
6 indicated by the coordinate input device with a  
7 size of an image extracted area of the second  
8 original, thereby effecting a scaling process so as  
9 to fit an image located in the image extracted area  
10 to the image composited area.

11. The image forming system of claim 10, wherein  
the editing device performs a process for causing  
the scanner section to read the second original in  
accordance with a scaling factor obtained as a  
result of the scaling process.

12. The image forming system of claim 9, further  
comprising a storage device which stores a portion  
or a whole of image data pertaining to the  
respective first and second originals read by the  
scanner section,

wherein the editing device reads a storage  
image from the storage device, and composites a  
read image into the image composited area of the  
first original.

1 13. The image forming system of claim 10, further  
2 comprising a storage device which stores a portion  
3 or a whole of image data pertaining to the  
4 respective first and second originals read by the  
5 scanner section,

6 wherein the editing device reads a storage  
7 image from the storage device, and composites a  
8 read image into the image composited area of the  
9 first original.

1 14. The image forming system of claim 11, further  
2 comprising a storage device which stores a portion  
3 or a whole of image data pertaining to the  
4 respective first and second originals read by the  
5 scanner section,

6 wherein the editing device reads a storage  
7 image from the storage device, and composites a  
8 read image into the image composited area of the  
9 first original.

1 15. The image forming system of claim 9, further  
2 comprising a storage device which stores a portion  
3 or a whole of image data pertaining to the  
4 respective first and second originals read by the  
5 scanner section,

6 wherein, in a case where a storage image read  
7 from the storage device is composited into the  
8 first original, the editing device compares a size

of an image composited area of the first original indicated by the coordinate input device with a size of an image extracted area from which the storage image has been extracted, thereby effecting a scaling process so as to fit an extracted storage image to the size of the image composited area of the first original.